WELLS GRAY

RECREATION AREA

INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

MINISTRY OF PARKS

SOUTHERN INTERIOR REGION

JANUARY, 1991

105-04266/

WELLS GRAY
RECREATION AREA
INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

JANUARY, 1991

RECOMMENDED: _____ Date: 91-01-04
District Manager
Thompson River District

APPROVED: _____ Date: 91-05-01
Assistant Deputy Minister

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA

INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

I BACKGROUND 1

A. SETTING 1

CLEARWATER RIVER SITE

B. Natural and Cultural Resource Features 2
C. Encumbrances 2
D. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities 2
E. Current Recreation Use 2

FLOURMILLS SITE

B. Natural and Cultural Resource Features 5
C. Encumbrances 5
D. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities 8
E. Current Recreation Use 8

TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE

B. Natural and Cultural Resource Features 8
C. Encumbrances 10
D. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities 12
E. Current Recreation Use 12

McANDREW LAKE SITE

B. Natural and Cultural Resource Features 13
C. Encumbrances 13
D. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities 13
E. Current Recreation Use 13

II PROVINCIAL PARK SYSTEM CONTEXT 16

CLEARWATER RIVER SITE

A. Conservation Role 16
B. Outdoor Recreation Role 16
C. Scientific/Education Role 16

FLOURMILLS SITE

A. Conservation Role 16
B. Outdoor Recreation Role 16
C. Scientific/Education Role 16

TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE
A. Conservation Role 17
B. Outdoor Recreation Role 17
C. Scientific/Education Role 17

McANDREW LAKE SITE
A. Conservation Role 17
B. Outdoor Recreation Role 18
C. Scientific/Education Role 18

III **CLEARWATER RIVER SITE** (ZONING AND MANAGEMENT PLANS)
A. ZONING 18
B. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT 20
C. VISITOR SERVICES MANAGEMENT 22

IV **FLOURMILLS SITE** (ZONING AND MANAGEMENT PLANS)
A. ZONING 25
B. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT 27
C. VISITOR SERVICES MANAGEMENT 29

V **TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE** (ZONING AND MANAGEMENT PLANS)
A. ZONING 32
B. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT 33
C. VISITOR SERVICES MANAGEMENT 38

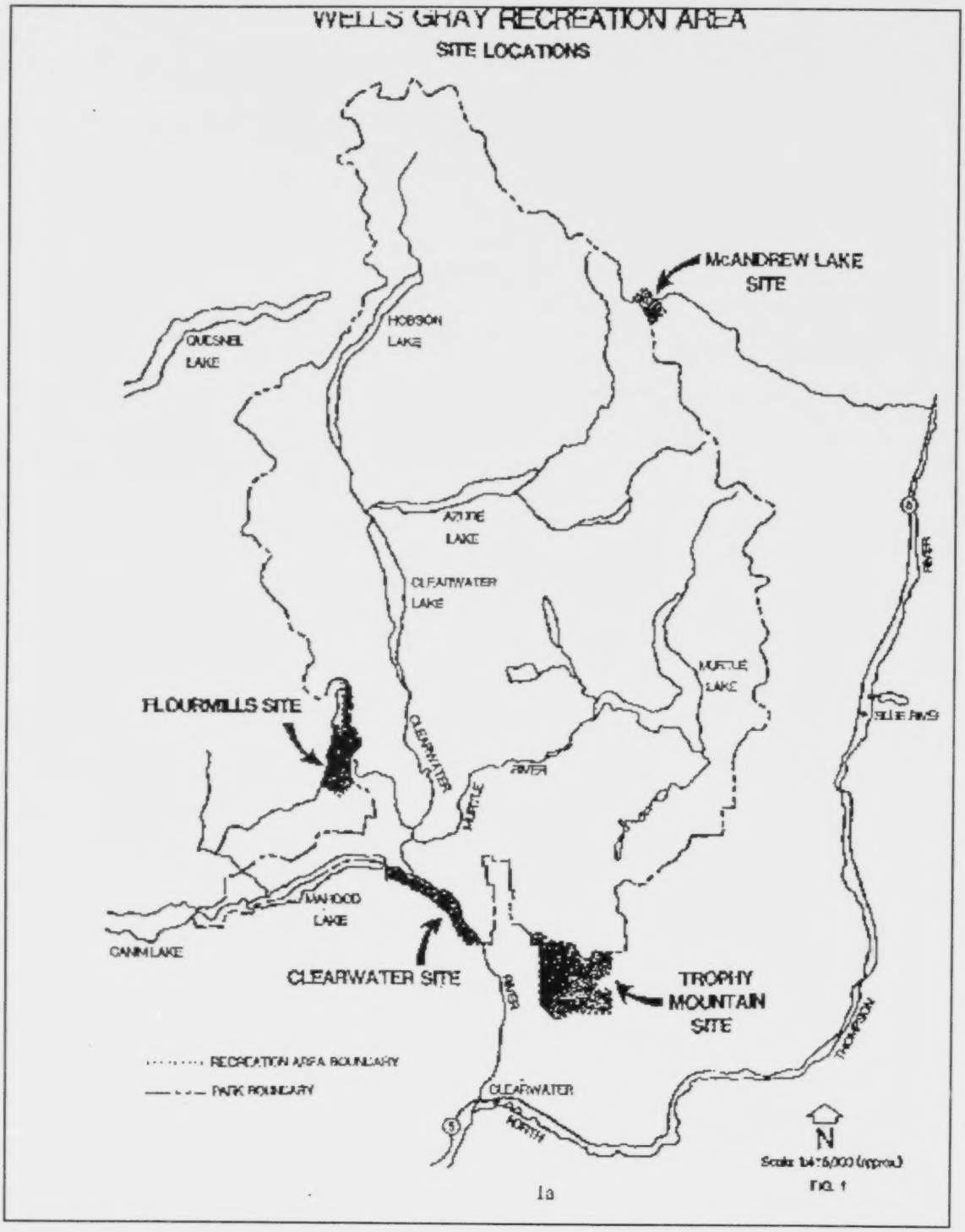
VI **McANDREW LAKE SITE** (ZONING AND MANAGEMENT PLANS)
A. ZONING 42
B. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT 42
C. VISITOR SERVICES MANAGEMENT 45

VII **INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT IMPLEMENTATION** 47

CLEARWATER RIVER SITE 47
FLOURMILLS SITE 47
TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE 47
McANDREW LAKE SITE 47

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1	SITE LOCATIONS	1a
FIGURE 2	CLEARWATER SITE – REGIONAL LOCATION	3
FIGURE 3	CLEARWATER SITE – NATURAL & CULTURAL FEATURES	4
FIGURE 4	FLOURMILLS SITE – REGIONAL LOCATION	6
FIGURE 5	FLOURMILLS SITE – NATURAL FEATURES	7
FIGURE 6	TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE – REGIONAL LOCATION	9
FIGURE 7	TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE – FEATURES & ENCUMBRANCES	11
FIGURE 8	McANDREW LAKE SITE – REGIONAL LOCATION	14
FIGURE 9	McANDREW LAKE SITE – NATURAL FEATURES	15
FIGURE 10	CLEARWATER SITE – ZONING	19
FIGURE 11	CLEARWATER SITE – RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT	23
FIGURE12	FLOURMILLS SITE – ZONING	26
FIGURE 13	FLOURMILLS SITE – RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT	30
FIGURE 14	TROPHY MOUNTAINS SITE – ZONING	35
FIGURE15	TROPHY MOUNTAINS SITE – RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT	39
FIGURE 16	McANDREW LAKE SITE – ZONING	43
FIGURE 17	McANDREW LAKE SITE – RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT	46


WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA
SITE LOCATIONS
McANDREW LAKE SITE
HOBSON LAKE
QUESNEL LAKE
AZURE LAKE
CLEARWATER LAKE
MURTLE LAKE
FLOURMILLS SITE
CLEARWATER RIVER
MURTLE RIVER
MAHOOD LAKE
CANIM LAKE
CLEARWATER SITE
TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE
THOMPSON RIVER
RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY
PARK BOUNDARY
CLEARWATER
N
Scale 1:475,000 (approx.)
FIG. 1

1a

I BACKGROUND

A. Setting

i. Designation

Wellesley Gray Recreation Area was first established by Bill 56/85 in June, 1985. Amendments made by O.I.C. 1739/87 created Wells Gray Provincial Recreation Area over 4 sites within the park: **Clearwater River, Flourmills, Trophy Mountain, McAndrew Lake** (including mineral claims within Wells Gray Provincial Park). Subsequent amendment in January, 1989 reverted the mineral claims portion of the Recreation Area to Class A Park. Total size of the Recreation Area is 13,963 hectares.

ii. Location, Area and Access

CLEARWATER RIVER SITE: 2,328 hectares

Adjacent to the southern boundary of Wells Gray Provincial Park on the Clearwater River, 25 km north of Clearwater.

Accessed by gravel logging road from Clearwater. Road begins on private lot 6825 (Slocan Forest Products) and continues for 24 km to the boundary of the Recreation Area.

FLOURMILLS SITE: 3,572 hectares

Located in the Spanish Creek Valley east of 100 Mile House and north of Canim and Mahood Lakes, adjacent to the western boundary of Wells Gray Provincial Park.

Accessed by a 1.5 hour drive along active logging roads from 100 Mile House (Canim Lake Road). Existing connection to the Clearwater River valley is impassable at the Mahood River.

TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE: 6,934 hectares

Situated adjacent to the southern boundary of Wells Gray Provincial Park, just northeast of Clearwater.

Accessed via 11 kilometres of gravel logging road (Bear Creek Correctional Centre road), branching from the Clearwater Valley Road north of Clearwater near Spahats Creek Provincial Park.

McANDREW LAKE SITE: 1,129 hectares

Situated adjacent to the northeastern boundary of Wells Gray Provincial Park at the headwaters of the North Thompson River.

Access is limited to fly-in or walk-in. There is logging road access up the North Thompson River to within 20 km of the southern boundary of the McAndrew Lake site.

CLEARWATER RIVER SITE

B. Natural and Cultural Resource Features

- The Clearwater River site is located in the Quesnel-Shuswap Highland Natural Landscape which is the transition between the plateau country to the south-west, and the mountain country to the north-east.

- The dominant feature is the Clearwater River. Other notable features are truncated spur valleys and volcanic vents and cinder cones. Vegetation cover is heavy, continuous and is primarily interior Western Hemlock.

- The extent and significance of cultural features requires further research to determine. To date, two possible village sites have been documented.

C. Encumbrances

Trapline: H. Ritchie
Box 2806, R.R. #2
Clearwater, B. C.

D. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Fishing - excellent sport fishing opportunities exist in the Clearwater River.

Camping - there are numerous opportunities for small rustic riverside camping on the Clearwater River.

River-Rafting - excellent opportunities are available for river rafting ventures.

Canoeing and Kayaking - there are excellent opportunities for these activities on the Clearwater River.

Hunting - opportunities for deer and moose.

Bicycling - the road offers good opportunities for bicycling along the Clearwater valley.

E. Current Recreation Use

Current uses of the area are primarily fishing, hunting, camping, river rafting, kayaking and canoeing on a local and regional basis.

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – CLEARWATER SITE

REGIONAL LOCATION

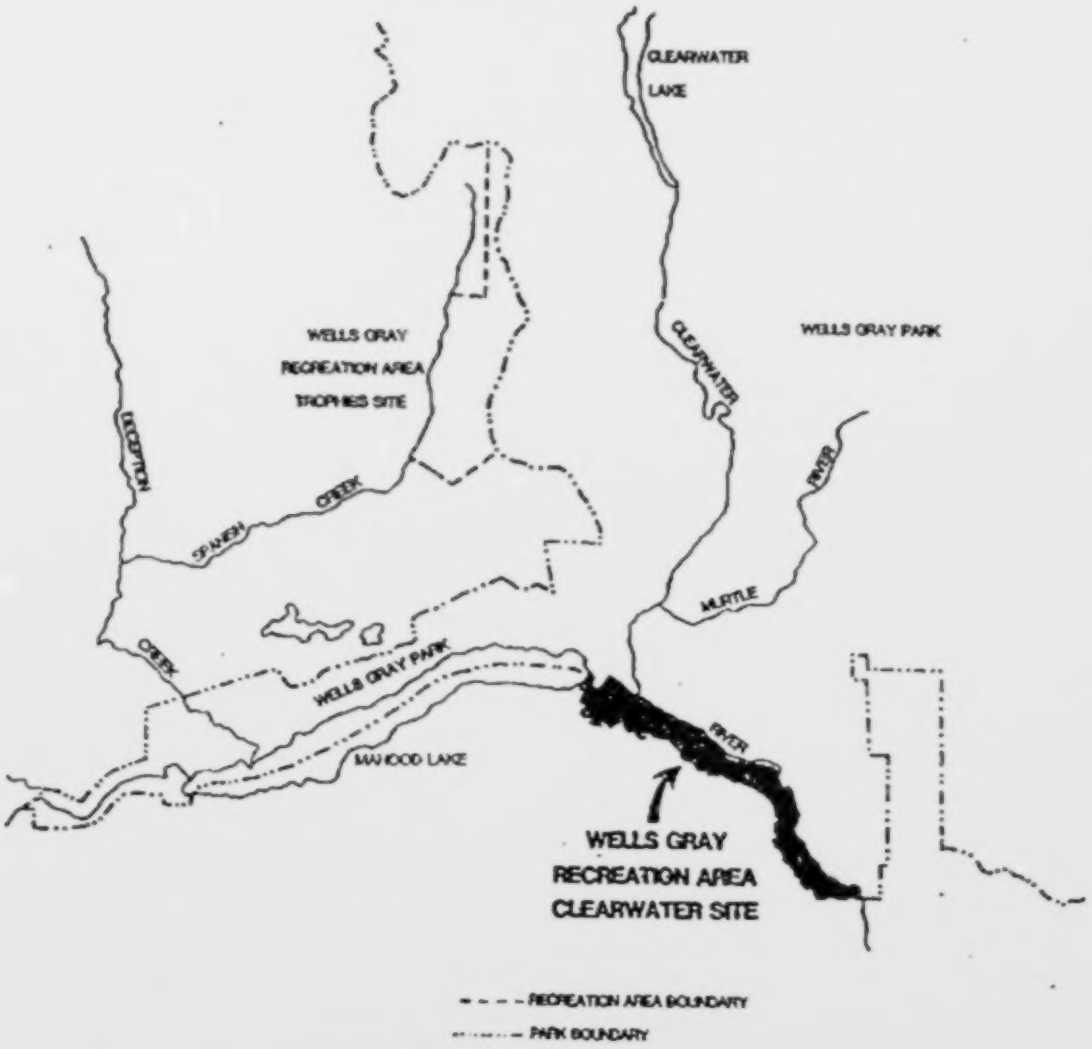


FIG. 2

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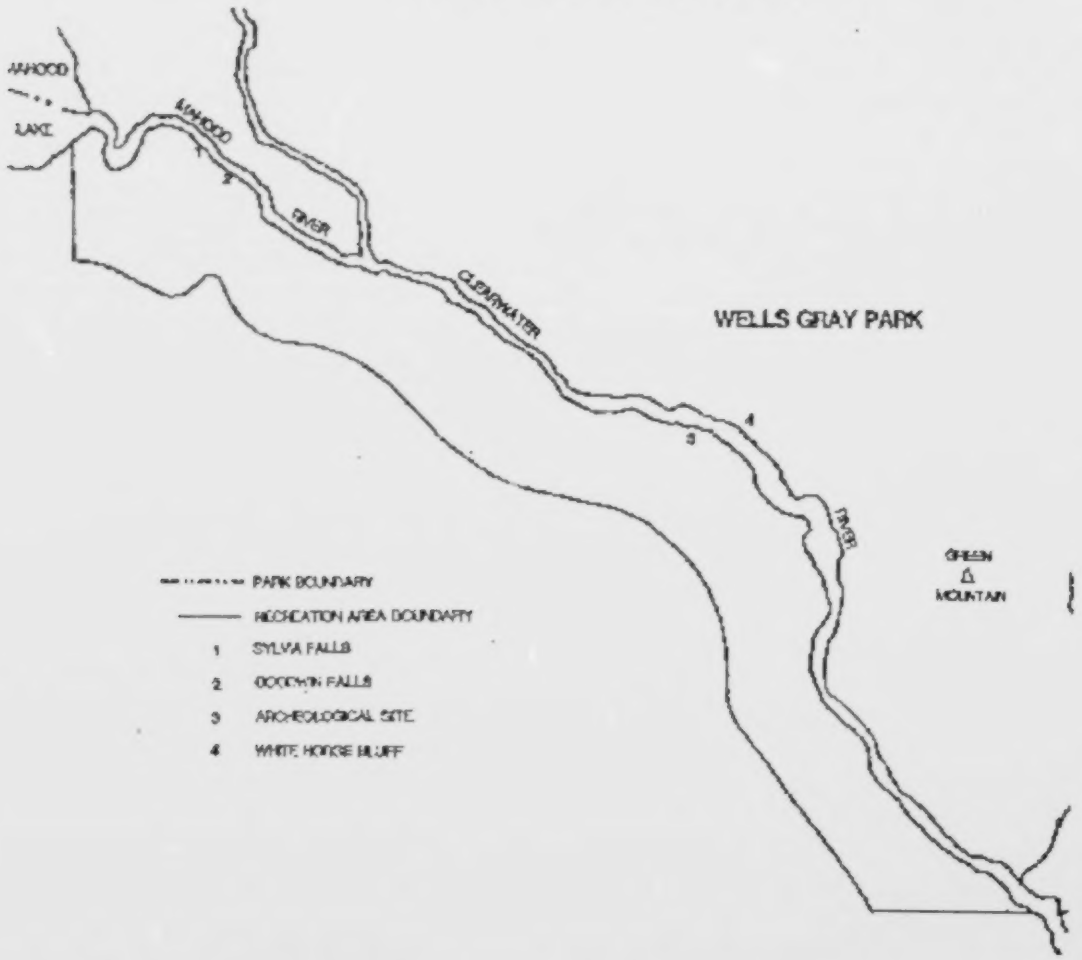
WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – CLEARWATER SITE

NATURAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES



Use is dependent on road conditions and cooperative maintenance by B.C. Forests, B.C. Parks and the forest company. Future road conditions, or road access to the Recreation Area, cannot be guaranteed at present.

FLOURMILLS SITE

B. Natural and Cultural Resource Features

Lies within the Southern Interior Highlands Natural Region and contains a range of geologic and vegetative features that are representative of the Quesnel-East Shuswap Highland Regional Landscape.

The area is characterized by two prominent volcanic cones and an extensive lava bed of provincial and to some extent, national significance. These features, which include cinder cones, lava flows, a volcanic plug, a collapsed neck, explosion pits, older glaciated volcanic features and post volcanic plant succession, are significant because they are well preserved, rare, recent (3,000 years old) and within easy access of the main road.

The southern volcano contains three breached and recent cinder cones, which are easily observable because of a recent forest fire.

The northern volcano contains an undisturbed breached cone with a largely unvegetated, undisturbed (25 m wide by 25 m deep) symmetrical collapsed cone, which is not represented in Wells Gray Park.

The lava beds are considered to be amongst the most recent in the province (3,000 years old). The area contains a large, undisturbed, water-filled explosion pit or collapsed crater, which is the only one represented in the Park System and one of only a few known to exist in the province.

The area contains an extremely scenic 7 km long alpine ridge which is linked to the northern-volcano by a series of meadows and park-like sub-alpine forest. The ridge offers excellent panoramic views of Wells Gray Park and superb opportunities for hiking, camping and resource appreciation.

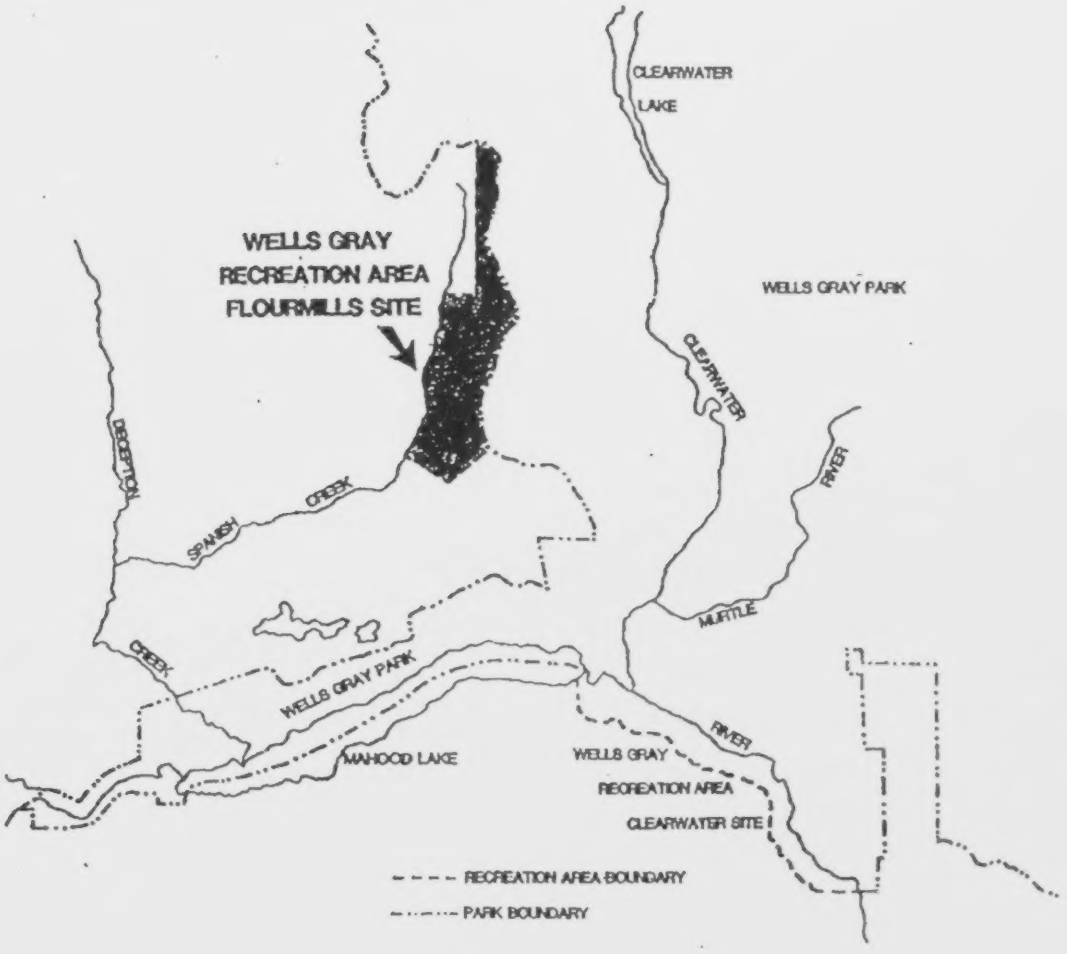
Spanish Lake has limited recreation value. There is evidence of fishing activities but the fishery values are unknown. The surrounding landscape reflects forest fire and logging activities. The lake offers a good opportunity to develop a rustic campground from which to base recreation activity.

C. Encumbrances

- Trapping Territories - Joe Ritchey
- Mining Claims - none known.
- Guide-Outfitter Territories - S. Maitland

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – FLOURMILLS SITE

REGIONAL LOCATION



Scale: 1:250,000 (approx)

FIG. 4

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WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – FLOURMILLS SITE

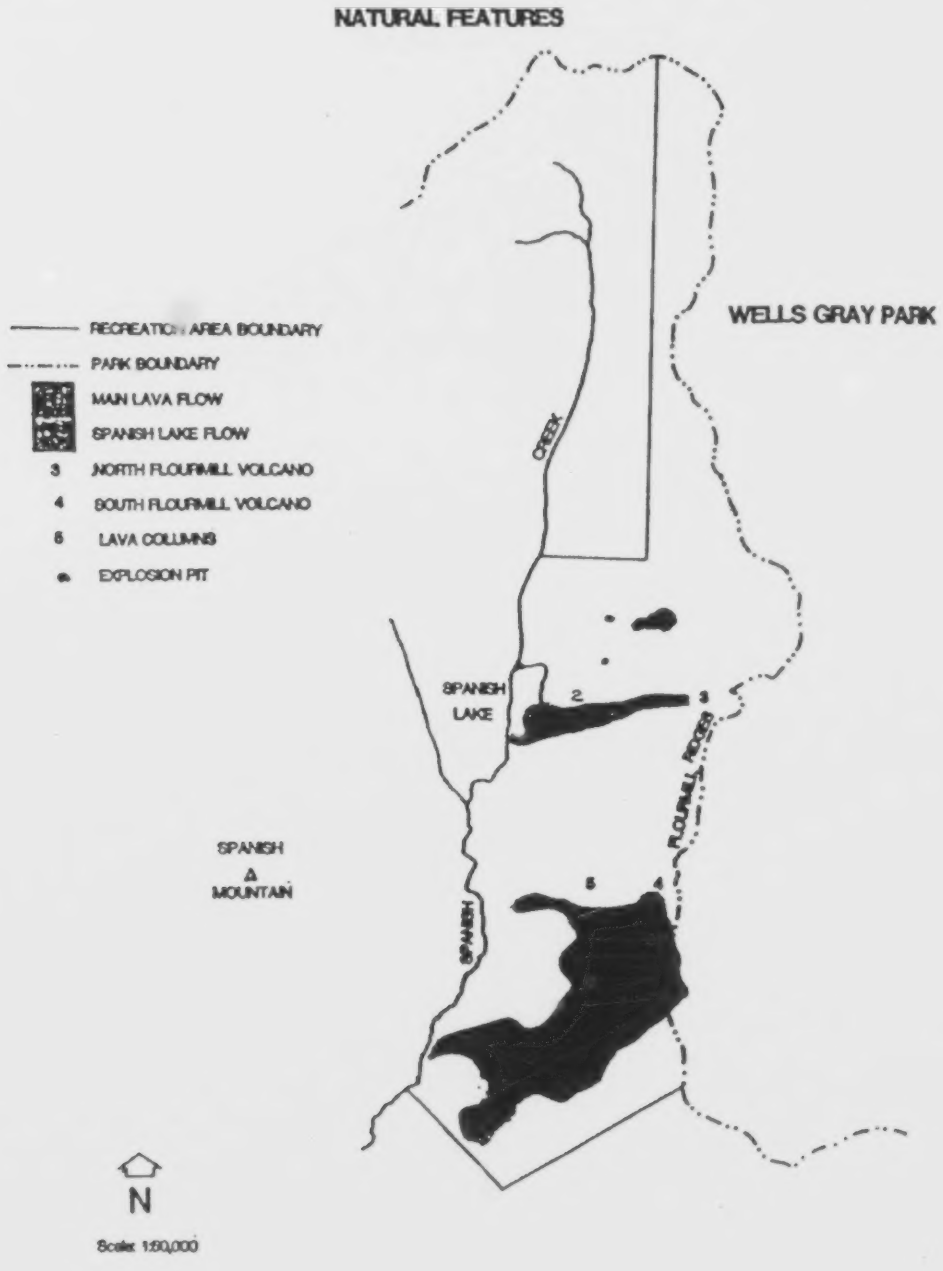


FIG. 6

D. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

The concentration of outstanding volcanic and scenic alpine features within easy road access offers good opportunities for hiking, camping, photography and viewing.

Hiking: Alpine hiking opportunities exist along the boundary ridges.

Camping: Spanish Lake offers potential as a base camp for exploring the area or for fishing and hunting.

Hunting: The area offers hunting opportunities for deer, bear and moose.

Angling: Fishing opportunities in Spanish Lake and Creek are unknown; rainbow trout fishing is popular.

Horseback riding: The ease of access and open, alpine ridges allow for recreational riding within the Recreation area, particularly in the northern portion. Some wetland areas may be disturbed by horse use.

Special features: The volcanic features offer opportunities for viewing, interpretation, photography and scientific research.

Winter Use: Opportunities exist for snowmobiling; backcountry ski touring is dependent on winter access conditions.

E. Current Recreation Use

- Current recreational use includes hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding and snowmobiling. Difficult access to the area limits use.

- Snowmobile and ATV use has been increasing in recent years.

- The area is commonly studied by geothermal scientists.

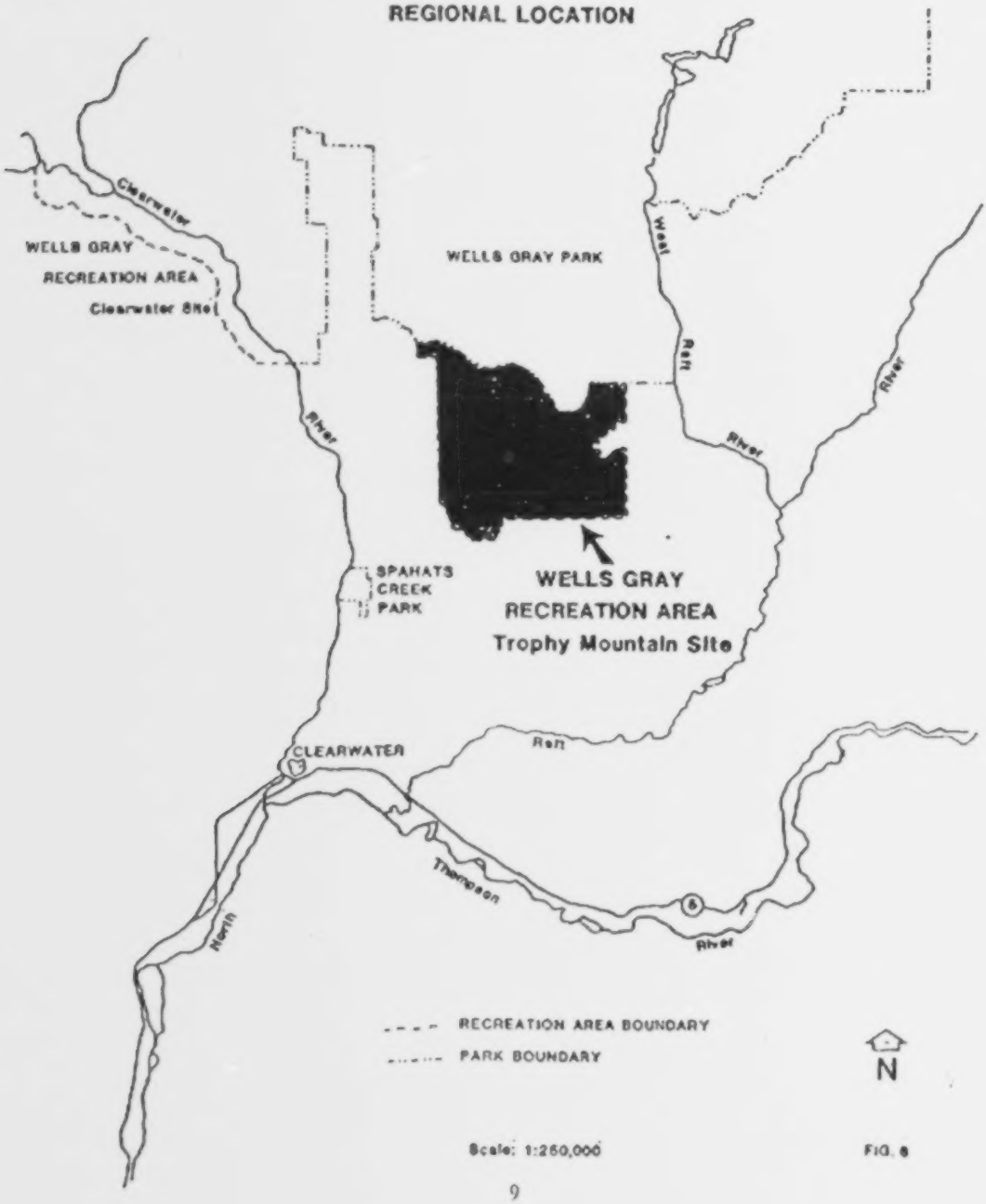
TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE

B. Natural and Cultural Resource Features

- The Trophy Mountain group lies within the Quesnel-Shuswap Highlands regional landscape, an elevated plateau of gentle topography intersected by deep, narrow river valleys.

- Nine, typically rounded peaks aligned northwest/southeast divide the Recreation Area (Trophy). The Trophy range and adjacent valleys present evidence of volcanic occurrence, including the existence of small lava balls within explosion fissures (the "Thunder Eggs").

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE



9

- Contains over 45 sub-alpine lakes and tarns characteristic of the alpine terrain.

- Characterised by the sub-alpine vegetation which covers the majority of the area; upper elevations lie within the alpine tundra biogeoclimatic zone, lower reaches within the Englemann Spruce-subalpine Fir zone. Forest cover is essentially spruce-subalpine fir, with alpine fir being the dominant species.

- A large variety of plant species (approximately 130 species are recorded) exist within the Trophies; flower displays unparalleled within Wells Gray Park or the Cariboo Mountains. Previously the area has been proposed for Ecological Reserve status.

- A portion of the Wells Gray Park woodland caribou herd (app. total of 100) winter in the Battle Mountain-upper Raft River area, which includes the Trophies. However, actual use of the Recreation Area (Trophy) varies; in some years many caribou can be found wintering here, while in others, areas other than the Trophies are utilized.

- Mule and whitetail deer, black and grizzly bear, moose, grouse and ptarmigan can be found in the vicinity. Fewer insects than in similar alpine areas of Wells Gray Park.

- There are no fish in any lake within the Recreation Area (Trophy).

- An abandoned cabin in the southwest sector of the Recreation Area (Trophy) dates to a 1950's sheep grazing operation.

- Aboriginal campsites and other archaeological sites may exist in the area, however, these have not been accurately mapped.

- Prospecting in the Trophy Mountain range has occurred over a number of years. An abandoned campsite on the north side of the mountain indicates former exploration activity.

- The Trophy Mountains dominate landscape views for several kilometres as one travels northward from Little Fort along Highway 5.

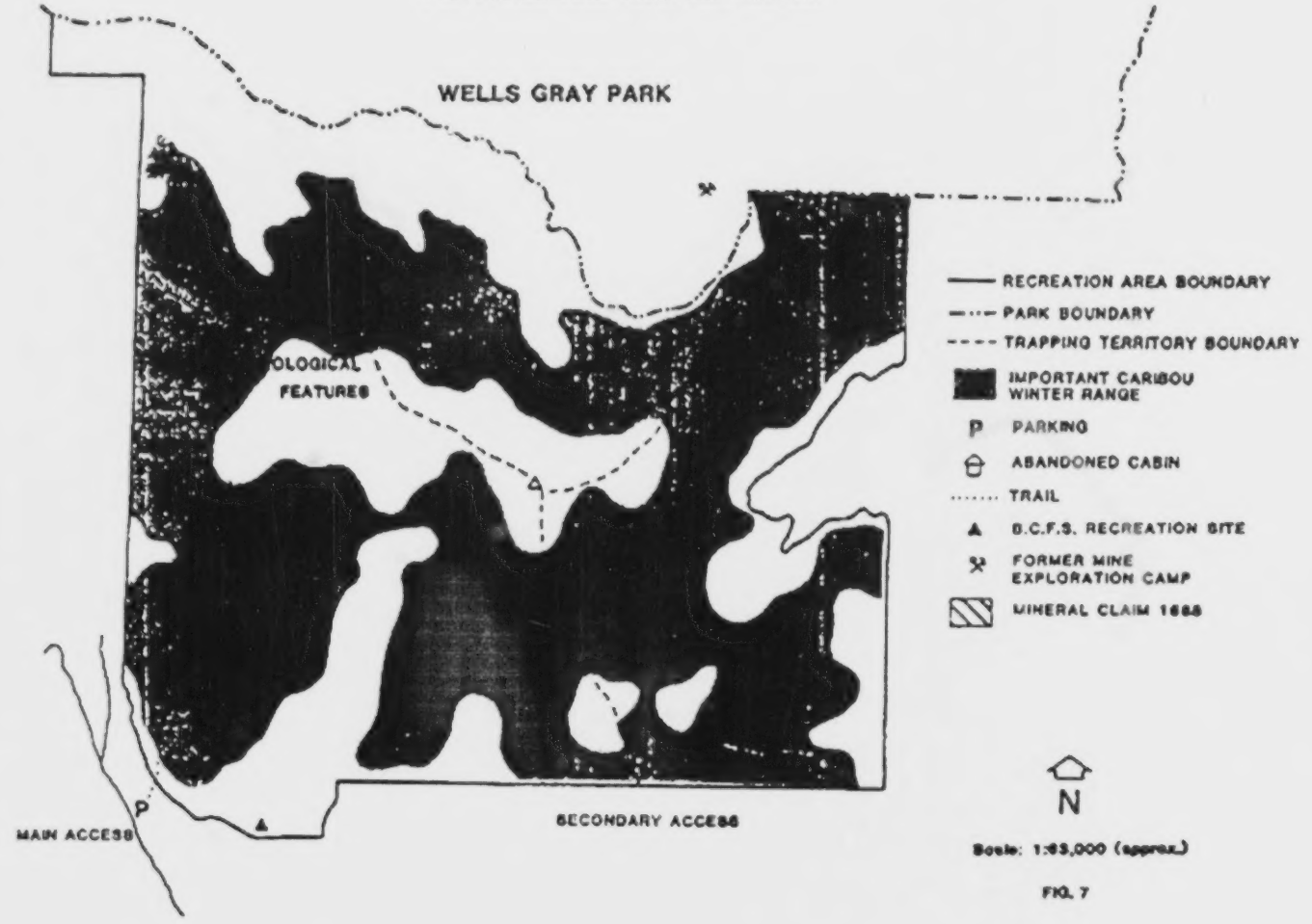
C. Encumbrances

- 1 2-Post Mineral Claim -
  #1688 Recorded 1979-1-03;
  Sold 1987-1-07 to
  Henrietta Miller, Clearwater.

- Trapping Territories
  A. Dekalver, Clearwater (Trophy Mtn. west)
  B. Gablehaus, Clearwater (Trophy Mtn. east)

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA - TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE

FEATURES AND ENCUMBRANCES



Scale: 1:63,000 (approx.)

FIG. 7

- O.I.C. 774/87 - Claim Staking and Placer Mining Reserve

- Snow Sampling course, Water Management Branch, M.o.E.

D. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Considering the Recreation Area's terrain, climate and access conditions, the following outdoor recreation activities are feasible.

Hiking:
- day trips to the flower meadows and Trophy Mountain
- multi-day circle trips around the Trophies
- multi-day trips through the Trophies to Wells Gray Park (Fight Lake/Battle Mountain) or out toward the upper Raft River

Camping:
- weekend camping within the Trophies
- overnight camping as part of a larger through-trip

Photography and Nature Appreciation:
- Trophy Mountain flower meadows represent an outstanding display
- easily accessed alpine terrain features
- grand views from Trophy Mtn. northward over Wells Gray Park

Horseback Riding:
- guided/unguided trail riding to some of the area's features

Winter Use:
- alpine ski touring; day-use and extended trips
- snowshoeing
- snowmobiling in the alpine bowls

E. Current Recreation Use

- Use is concentrated along the southwest flank of Trophy Mountain where access is available from adjacent logging areas.

- Primary use is for summer day hiking and scenery appreciation. Aside from undetermined casual visits, B.C. Park visitor programs in Trophy Meadow attract relatively large numbers (over 1000 per summer) for viewing of the alpine flowers.

- Weekend camping at Sheila Lake is popular with locals and those directed to the Trophies from outside the Clearwater area (Kamloops, pass-through tourists, local lodge clientele).

- Horseback riders have traditionally used routes within the Trophies for recreational riding into the open meadows of the subalpine.

- Day ski touring in the Trophy Mountains has attracted more winter visitors each year, particularly since adjacent forest roads have been snowplowed.

- Overnight ski touring is provided by a commercial concession in the eastern portions of the Recreation area (Trophy Mtn.)

- Snowmobile use in the Trophies has become an occasional use for Clearwater residents and organized clubs from within the southern interior.

McANDREW LAKE SITE

B. Natural and Cultural Resource Features

- Located in the High Columbia Regional Landscape of the Columbia Mountain Natural Region, characterized geologically by glaciated u-shaped valleys.

- Vegetation cover ranges from alpine tundra in the higher elevations through sub-alpine Engelmann Spruce to Interior Western Hemlock in the valley bottoms. Engelmann spruce is the dominant tree cover.

- Wildlife populations are varied, with deer, moose, caribou, goat, black and grizzly bear, grouse/ptarmigan found throughout this part of the park. The southerly portion of McAndrew Lake provides important winter habitat for caribou.

C. Encumbrances

McAndrew Lake:

- P.U.P. 877, commercial mechanized Ski Guiding
  Bugaboo Helicopter Skiing Ltd.
  Issued December 1, 1984
  McAndrew Lake is bottom of ski run

D. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Hiking - extended backcountry trips
Camping - backcountry
Angling - not known at this time
Hunting - deer, moose
Winter Use - heli-skiing, x-country touring, snowmobiling

E. Current Recreation Use

Current use of the area is minimal; difficult access limits use to occasional summer hiking and commercial heli-skiing.

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – McANDREW LAKE SITE

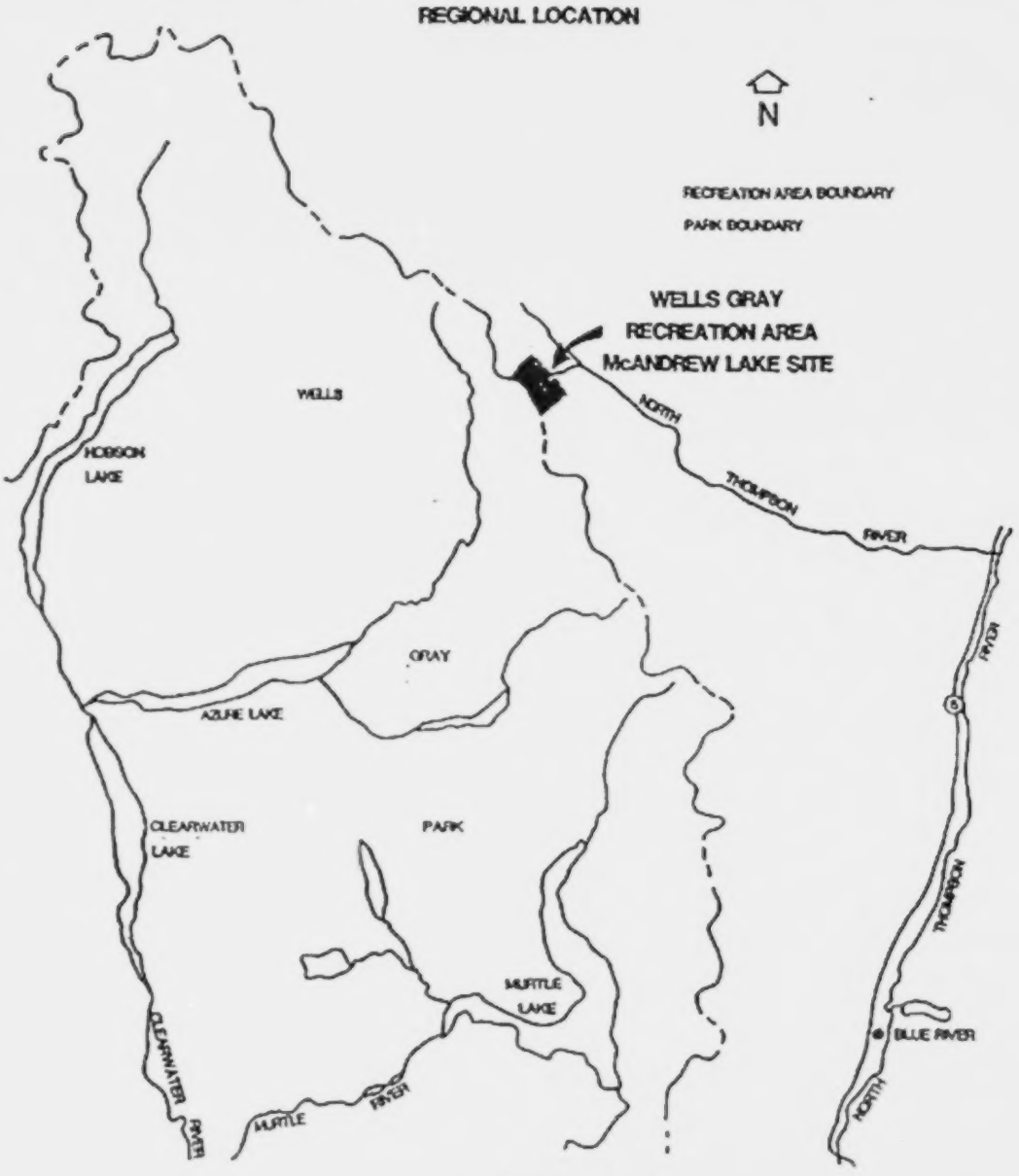


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FIG. 8

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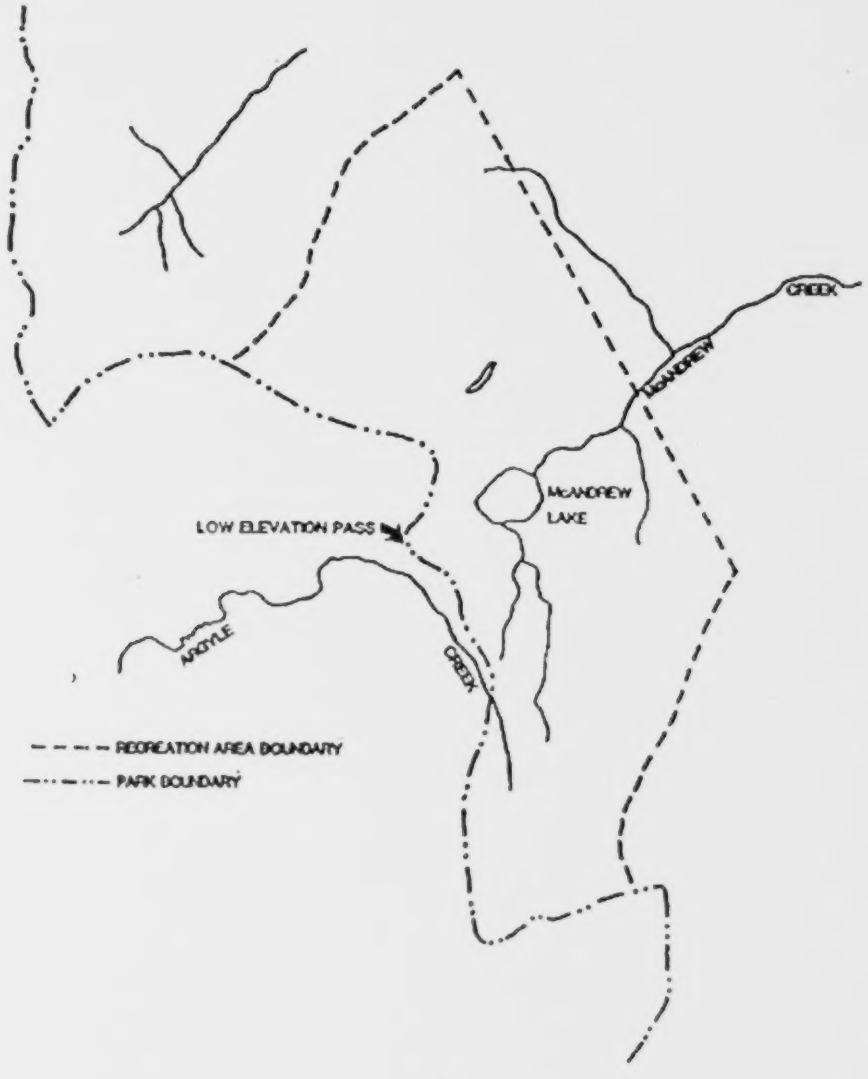
WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – McANDREW LAKE SITE

NATURAL FEATURES



15

II PROVINCIAL PARK SYSTEM CONTEXT

CLEARWATER RIVER SITE

A. Conservation Role

- Conserves a major wild river and the recreation opportunities associated with it and its shoreline uplands. Protects provincially significant salmon spawning habitat and trout fishery.

B. Outdoor Recreation Role

- Provides informal, dispersed recreation opportunities for local and region resident use with easy road access along the Clearwater River.

- Provides provincially significant opportunities for river rafting, white water canoeing and kayaking.

C. Scientific/Education Role

- No specific role at this time. There may be some programmes introduced in conjunction with Federal Fisheries to develop a sport salmon fishery.

FLOURMILLS SITE

A. Conservation Role

- Protects provincially significant and unique volcanic features.

- Provides minor representation of the Quesnel-Shuswap Highlands Landscape.

B. Recreation Role

- In association with Wells Gray Park, provides destination outdoor recreation opportunities for tourists.

- Presents hiking, fishing, viewing, horseback riding, ski-touring and snowmobiling opportunities for local and regional residents.

C. Scientific/Educational Role

- Protects important and unique volcanic features for scientific research and public education.

TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE

A. Conservation Role

- Conserves biotic and geologic features not found elsewhere within Wells Gray Park or the Cariboo Mountains.

- Conserves an array of scenic recreation features which dominate the local landscape, including rolling alpine meadows, rounded mountain peaks and glacial lakes.

- Protects a significant portion of critical Woodland Caribou winter range.

- Provides extension of landscape representation of the Quesnel Shuswap Highlands, already considered satisfactorily represented within Wells Gray Park.

B. Outdoor Recreation Role

- Protects an attractive, accessible alpine recreation area.

- Presents important summer and winter outdoor recreation opportunities for people with a wide range of skills from novice to expert.

- Provides a day-use alpine recreation destination for residents and tourists within the Clearwater/Kamloops area.

- Greatly enhances the limited accessible alpine recreation opportunities presented in adjacent Wells Gray Park.

C. Scientific/Educational Role

- Protects a significant botanical and ecological study unit considered to be of importance to the scientific community.

- Protects a study area from which to contrast the impact of adjacent logging and recreational use on the winter range of woodland caribou.

- Provides excellent opportunities to advance public knowledge and awareness of the Trophy Meadows and the Wells Gray mountain environment.

- Presents an alpine area in which to train persons in outdoor recreation skills.

McANDREW LAKE SITE

A. Conservation Role

- Relates directly to Wells Gray Provincial Park.

- Conserves a sub-alpine lake environment.

B. Outdoor Recreation Role

- Relates to the low-elevation pass linkage with Wells Gray Provincial Park.

- The McAndrew Lake unit provides wilderness destination recreation opportunities.

- The Recreation Area (McAndrew Lake) and adjacent parkland offer opportunities for winter activities such as heli-skiing, cross country touring, and snowmobiling.

- Extension of the logging road up the North Thompson River would significantly increase the importance of McAndrew Lake as a staging area for recreational use in the northern part of the Wells Gray Park.

C. Scientific/Education Role

- No specific scientific/educational role for this area is presently identified.

III CLEARWATER RIVER SITE

A. ZONING

i. Natural Environment Zone

Objective:

To provide for dispersed, road accessed recreation use along the Clearwater River.

Includes:

. rustic camping/fishing sites along the river.
. hiking trails to river sites and along the Mahood River.
. river raft put in/take out sites

Use:

. dispersed throughout the zone
. future use to be determined in a Clearwater River Recreation Corridor Plan

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – CLEARWATER SITE

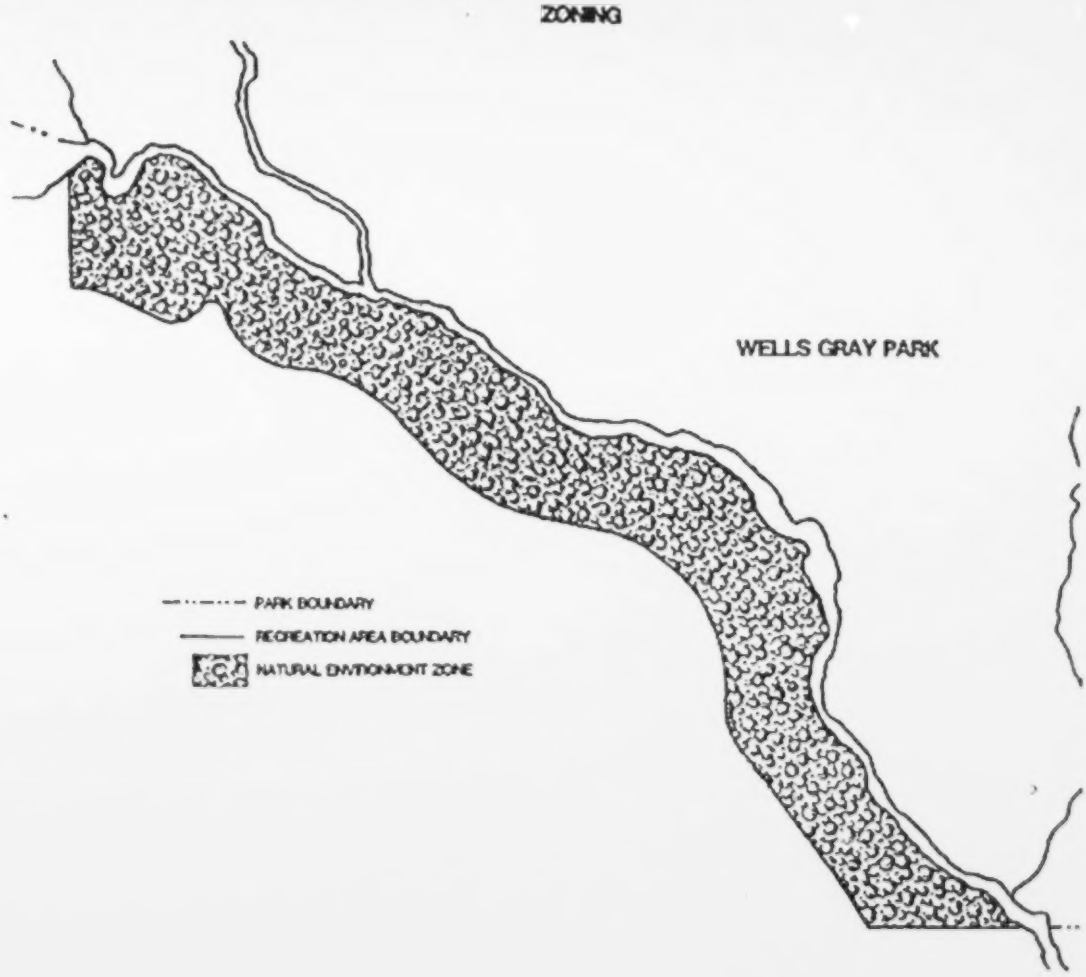


FIG. 10

B. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

i. Land and Land Tenure

Objective:

To sensitively manage and protect the Recreation Area's land base to enable its eventual addition to Wells Gray Park.

Management Actions:

- Initiate process to reclassify to Class A Status.

- Acquire trap-line.

- Initiate Recreation Corridor Plan for Clearwater River (Clearwater to Wells Gray Recreation Area) to consider future road access options and responsibilities, possible boundary amendments and landscape management within the Clearwater River Valley.

ii. Water

Objective:

To maintain water quality, thus protect a sports fishery and attractive river recreation opportunities.

Management Actions:

- Cooperate with B.C. Forests and B.C. Environment to ensure that forest harvesting, road maintenance operations and recreation activities do not impair water quality within the watershed of the Clearwater River.

- Provide for sanitary facilities at significant congregation areas along the river.

iii. Vegetation

Objective:

To promote the regeneration of disturbed areas and manage the Recreation Area to preserve a natural setting.

Management Actions:

- Allow for natural regeneration of previously logged areas within the Recreation Area (Clearwater R.); non-prepared blocks may be slash-burned. Some buffer planting is desirable to screen the blocks from the road.

- Apply fire/disease actions as in adjacent Wells Gray Provincial Park.

iv Fish

Objective:

To protect and enhance populations of sports fish and salmon stock in the Clearwater River.

Management Actions:

- Monitor angling use as much as feasible.

- Cooperate with Federal and Provincial fisheries departments to assist in setting regulations and in preserving and maintaining natural stocks.

v. Wildlife

Objective:

To manage wildlife populations to natural levels and to protect habitats.

Management Actions:

- Adjust wildlife management area boundaries (M.U.) to coincide with adjacent Wells Gray Park (M.U.3-46).

- Monitor use and harvest within the Recreation Area (Clearwater R.).

- Phase out trap-line as per Ministry Policy.

- Identify and ensure protection of habitat areas for wildlife.

vi. Geological

Objective:

To complete mineral evaluation as soon as possible and then consider Class A Park status.

Management Actions:

- Administer mineral resource tenures, exploration and development according to terms of Mineral Tenures Act.

- Ensure full monitoring of mineral exploration activity in the Recreation Area (Clearwater R.); apply stringent environmental safeguards to all activity.

vii. Outdoor Recreation and Visual Resources

Objective:

To ensure continued protection of significant recreation and visual features.

Management Actions:

- Ensure that the Clearwater Recreation Corridor Plan addresses issues regarding visual resources of the scenic Clearwater River valley.

- Present significant recreation resources (eg. Cache Pit Island, Goodwin/Sylvia Falls, Whitehorse Bluff) for public viewing.

- Identify important viewpoints along the Clearwater River access road.

viii. Cultural

Objective:

To identify and protect significant cultural resources that exist within the Recreation Area (Clearwater River).

Management Actions:

- Inventory potential cultural sites which exist along the Clearwater River.

- Protect archaeological sites from destructive disturbances and recreation developments which may impair the resource.

C. VISITOR SERVICES MANAGEMENT

i. Recreation Opportunities

Objective:

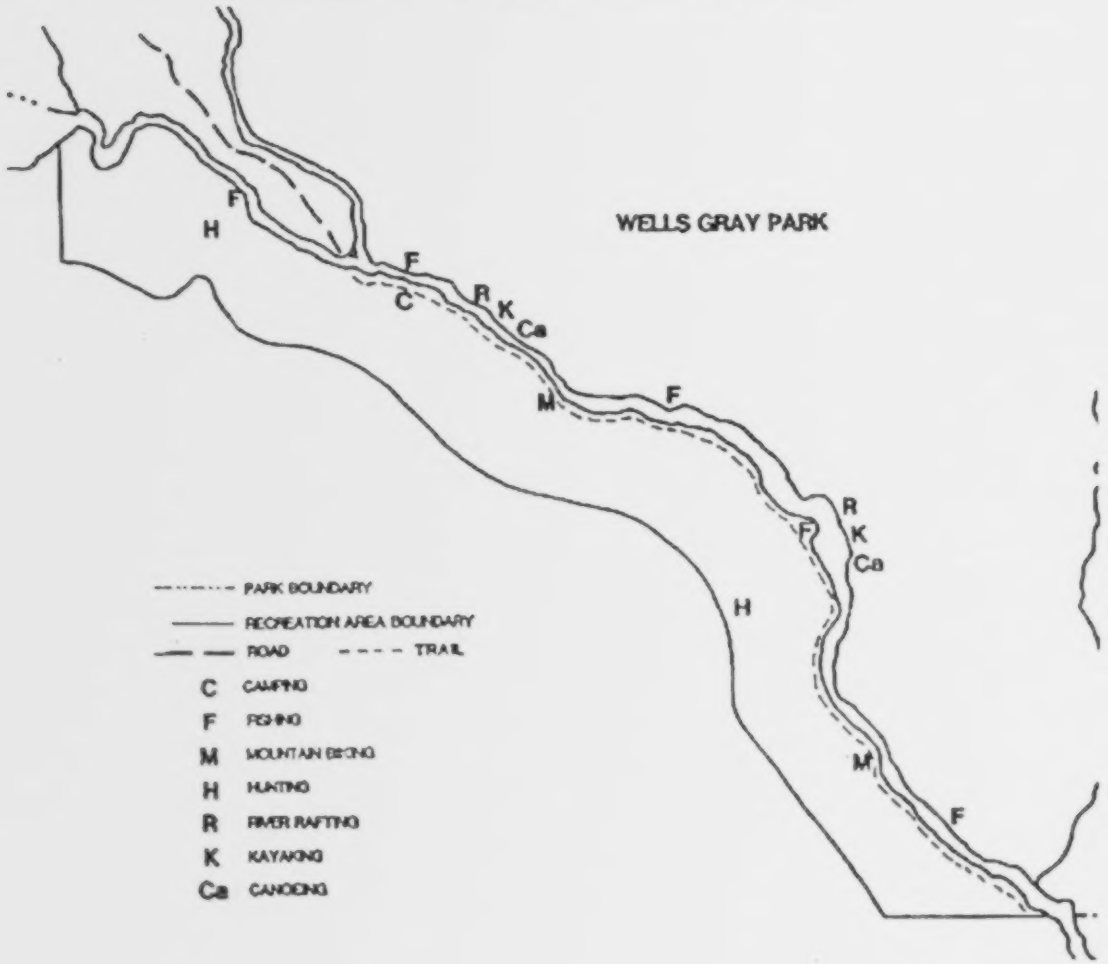
To provide camping, fishing and boating activities in a natural river corridor for both residents and tourists to the Wells Gray Area.

Management Actions:

- Ensure that a Corridor Plan for the Clearwater River Valley addresses issues of road access and commercial recreational use.

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA - CLEARWATER SITE

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT



Scale: 1:67,000 (approx.)

FIG. 11

23

- Recreation opportunities presented in the Recreation Area (Clearwater R.) will include:
    - informal camping at designated sites
    - day-use picnicking
    - river shore fishing
    - hiking to riverside features (eg. Goodwin, Sylvia Falls)
    - recreational hunting
    - commercial river rafting
    - wildlife viewing

- Designate two camping sites along the Clearwater River.
    a) Mahood/Clearwater River confluence (10 sites max.)
        - rustic tent pads/vehicle spaces
        - fire rings
        - picnic tables/toilets
    b) Cache Pit Island area (10 sites max.)
        - rustic tent pads/vehicle spaces
        - fire rings
        - picnic tables/toilets

-Define overflow camping sites (former B.C.F.S. Recreation sites)
    - vehicle spaces
    - toilets

- Construct a shelter at the Recreation Area (Clearwater R.) entrance to provide important visitor information.

ii. Management Services

1. Operations.

Objective:

To provide B.C. Parks presence and to manage the Recreation Area (Clearwater River) to achieve approved objectives.

Management Actions:

- Provide maintenance service and security patrols.

- Monitor use.

2. Promotions and Information.

Objective:

To promote and increase use of the Recreation Area (Clearwater R.) over the long term, focusing on local and regional market groups.

To permit marketing of commercial river rafting expeditions.

Management Actions:

- Include the Recreation Area (Clearwater R.) in existing marketing strategies for Wells Gray Provincial Park.

- Provide on-site information for visitors.

- Cooperate with local interest groups and tourist associations to ensure that informal recreation opportunities available along the Clearwater River are broadcast to local and regional residents.

IV FLOURMILLS SITE

A. ZONING

i. Intensive Use Zone

Objective:

To provide road accessed, facility oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Includes:

- all areas that provide road access and parking facilities.

Use:

- status quo pending completion of a more intensive recreation study and as increased demand dictates.

ii. Natural Environment Zone

Objective:

To provide outdoor recreation opportunities in a back-country area.

Includes:

- the remainder of the Recreation Area.

Use:

- road access to campgrounds and trailheads

- limited trail development along alpine ridge to volcanic features, pending recreation inventory.

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – FLOURMILLS SITE

ZONING

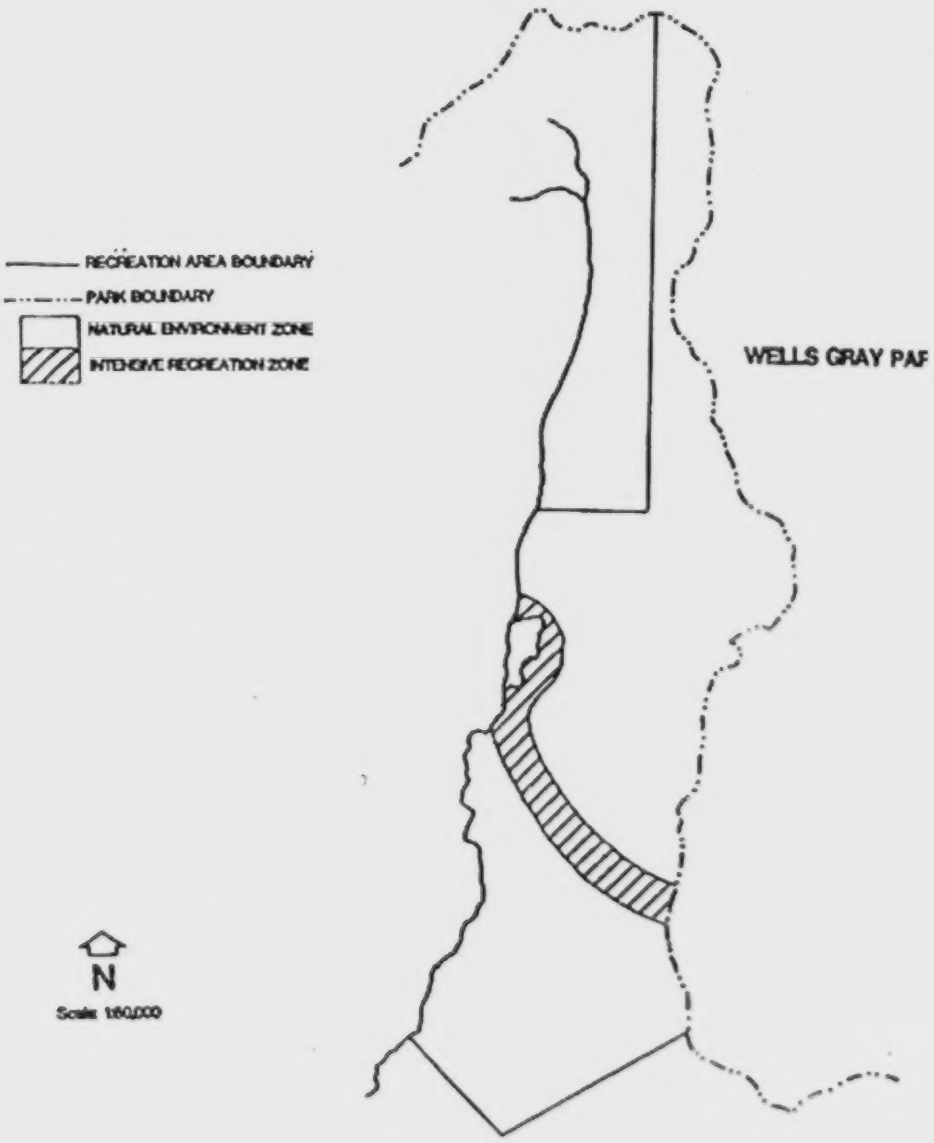


FIG. 12

26

- a campground to be developed in the sub-alpine setting, pending further recreation inventory and road access assessment.

B. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

i. Land and Land Tenure

Objective:

To sensitively manage and protect the Recreation Area to enable its eventual addition to Wells Gray Park.

Management Actions:

- Develop road access from Wells Gray Park.

- Initiate process for conversion from Recreation Area status to Class A status.

- Restrict mineral exploration and development from any area where disturbances will degrade the recreation value of volcanic features.

- Include the Flourmills site within the adjacent Wells Gray Provincial Park Wildlife Management Unit.

ii. Vegetation

Objective:

To allow disturbed areas to regenerate naturally; to protect sensitive alpine areas from overuse.

Management Actions:

- Fire suppression policies will parallel those for adjacent parkland.

- Protect alpine vegetation through road and trail development and the regulation of horse and ATV use.

iii. Fish

Objective:

To determine the potential of a sport fishery in Spanish Lake and Creek.

Management Actions:

- Conduct fishery studies to determine the productivity and potential for fishing as an attractive recreation activity.

- Determine habitat protection requirements and appropriate fishing regulations.

iv. Wildlife

Objective:

To identify and protect wildlife habitats and populations.

Management Actions:

- Carefully monitor caribou habitats to determine impacts from recreation activity, particularly snowmobiling.

- Include the Recreation Area (Flourmills) into the adjacent Wells Gray Park Wildlife Management Unit (3-46).

- Identify bear habitat and avoid development in these areas to reduce incidents of man/bear contact.

- Phase out trapping as per B.C. Park policy.

v. Geological

Objective:

To highlight geological information to park visitors. To complete mineral evaluation as soon as possible and then consider Class A Park status.

Management Actions:

- Identify and present important geological features.

- Monitor mineral exploration to conform with the Mineral Tenures Act.

- Enact a mineral exploration reserve over important recreation features.

vi. Cultural

Objective:

To identify and protect significant cultural resources within the Recreation Area (Flourmills).

Management Actions:

- Research and identify important cultural features which may exist within the area.

- Determine appropriate conservation measures to protect the features and allow public appreciation of their value.

C. VISITOR SERVICES MANAGEMENT

i. Recreation Opportunities

Objective:

To enhance opportunities for backcountry recreation, road-accessed camping, angling and hunting, natural resource appreciation and winter activities.

Management Actions:

- Maintain good forest road access from 100 Mile House to promote use of Wells Gray Park by this market area.

- Assess the feasibility of re-opening road access from Wells Gray Park via a proposed bridge at Bailey's Chute. The proposed road access will be reviewed in context with the next update of the Wells Gray Park Master Plan.

- Assess the feasibility of developing easy road access to the alpine environment and volcanic features of the Recreation Area to enhance visitor appreciation of the Flourmills. Cost factors may require that this project be considered as a long term objective.

- Retain the east side of Spanish Lake unroaded; through access to forest land north of the lake will be outside of Recreation Area.

- Present the following recreation opportunities:
    - day-use hiking
    - auto camping
    - horseback riding
    - snowmobiling
    - guided horse/hike trips

1. Intensive Use Zone:

- Maintain current access and park development until completion of a more detailed recreation inventory study.

- Develop parking areas along Spanish Creek at trail head and significant volcanic features.

- Develop hiking trails through the lava beds to protect the features and facilitate public use and education.

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – FLOURMILLS SITE

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

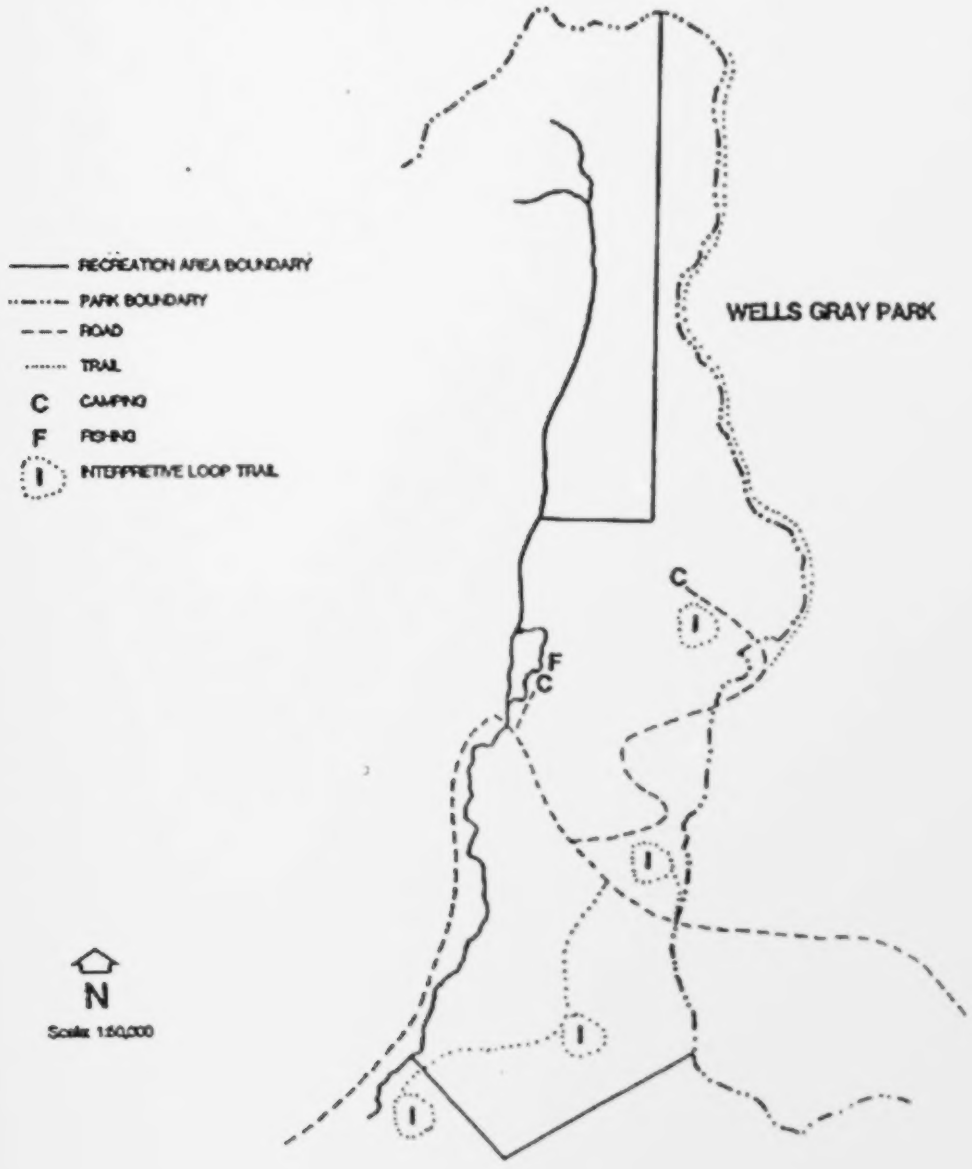


FIG. 13

30

2. Natural Environment Zone:

- In the long term, upgrade road access to the extinct volcano and explosion pit above Spanish Lake.

- Develop hiking trails to the volcanic features and alpine ridge.

- Manage and regulate the entire Recreation Area for multiple recreation use - snowmobiling, hiking and horseback riding; ensure that fragile meadows, volcanic features and sensitive wildlife habitat are not impaired.

- Assess new applications for trails (hiking or horseback) to ensure protection of sensitive features.

- Permit hunting in this zone; cabins will not be permitted. Guiding territories will be retained.

- Present illustrations of geologic history at appropriate locations.

ii. Management Services

1. Operations Base

Objective:

To provide a management presence in Recreation Area as an extension of Wells Gray Park services.

Management Actions:

- Monitor recreation use.

- Initiate backcountry patrols for winter and summer to establish B.C. Parks presence in area; monitor recreation and wildlife use.

- Maintain recreation facilities and developments.

- Eliminate the guide outfitter territory (encumbrance) and authorize guide outfitter operations by Park Use Permit only.

2. Promotion and Information

Objective:

Promote the unique volcanic features and alpine recreation opportunities as an extension to opportunities available in Wells Gray Park.

Actions:

- Promote the area's significance and range of outdoor recreation opportunities to the South Cariboo market area.

- Promote the area as an extension of the types of opportunities available in Wells Gray Park, particularly ease of access to the alpine environment.

- Ensure that natural and geologic features are interpreted throughout Recreation Area.

V TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE

A. ZONING

i. Intensive Use Zone

Objective:

To provide for road accessed, facility-oriented outdoor recreation.

Includes:

A parking area which is to be relocated to the western fringe of the Recreation Area (Trophy).

Use:

- a staging area for the majority of trips into the Trophies.
- an area from which to distribute information regarding the Recreation Area (Trophy).

ii. Natural Environment Zone

Objective:

To provide for outdoor recreation activities in a largely undisturbed natural setting.

Includes:

The remainder of the Recreation Area (Trophy).

Use:

Development Sub-zone: Permits moderate, site sensitive facility development for purposes of visitor convenience and control.

Includes:

. a Trophy Meadows Interpretation area;
. a trail corridor to connect the parking and Interpretation area;. a commercial, overnight accommodation site east of Trophy Mountain.

Special Use sub-zone: Recognizing that the Recreation Area has appeal to a diverse group of winter recreationists, snowmobile use will be permitted within the special use sub-zone.

Includes:

. the secondary access route from the south boundary of the Recreation Area
. the southeast basins flanking Trophy Mountains.

Use:

. opportunities will be authorized at the discretion of the District Manager.

This interim policy will be reviewed during the Wells Gray Park Master Plan 5-year update, (1992), at which time an assessment of:

- the Recreation Area's public profile,
- its continued appeal for motorized and non-motorized winter recreation,
- winter visitor statistics, and,
- the extent of winter trail development outside of the Recreation Area will provide adequate information on which to base a winter use policy.

B. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

i. Land and Land Tenure

Objective:

To sensitively manage and protect the Recreation Area's land to enable its eventual addition to Wells Gray Park.

Management Actions:

- Initiate a period for claim staking and mineral exploration as per the Mineral Tenure Act (1988).

- Land within the Recreation Area (Trophy) will be managed in a manner which reflects its potential as Class A Park.

- The Recreation Area (Trophy) will be added to Wildlife Management Unit 3-45 (Murtle Lake Unit).

- Except for the concessioned accommodation sites noted in the Figure 15, facility developments within the Recreation Area (Trophy) will only be developed for non-commercial, public recreational use.

ii. Water

Objective:

To protect water quality within the Recreation Area (Trophy).

Management Actions:

- Within the Natural Environment Zone, toilets will be located in high use areas to protect water sources from faecal contamination.

- Throughout the Recreation Area (Trophy), water resources will be used only in support of recreational activity.

iii. Vegetation

Objective:

To maintain the quality and diversity of vegetation cover within the Recreation Area (Trophy), with a particular conservation emphasis on the sub-alpine flower meadows and sensitive caribou habitat.

Management Actions:

- Within the Development sub-zone of the Natural Environment zone, visitors will be encouraged to use a developed trail surface in order to prevent trampling of sensitive alpine vegetation. Routing of trail expansions will avoid particularly unique and sensitive vegetation.

- Control of insect/disease infested timber, if threatening to adjacent commercial forest stands, will be by conservative methods, such as the trap tree process. Since the majority species is Balsam fir, serious infestations are not expected.

- Commercial logging is not compatible with landscape or caribou management objectives and will not be permitted within the Recreation Area (Trophy).

- As directed by the District Manager, firewood cutting for winter recreation supply to commercial operations may be allowed within the Natural Environment zone.

35

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA - TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE

ZONING

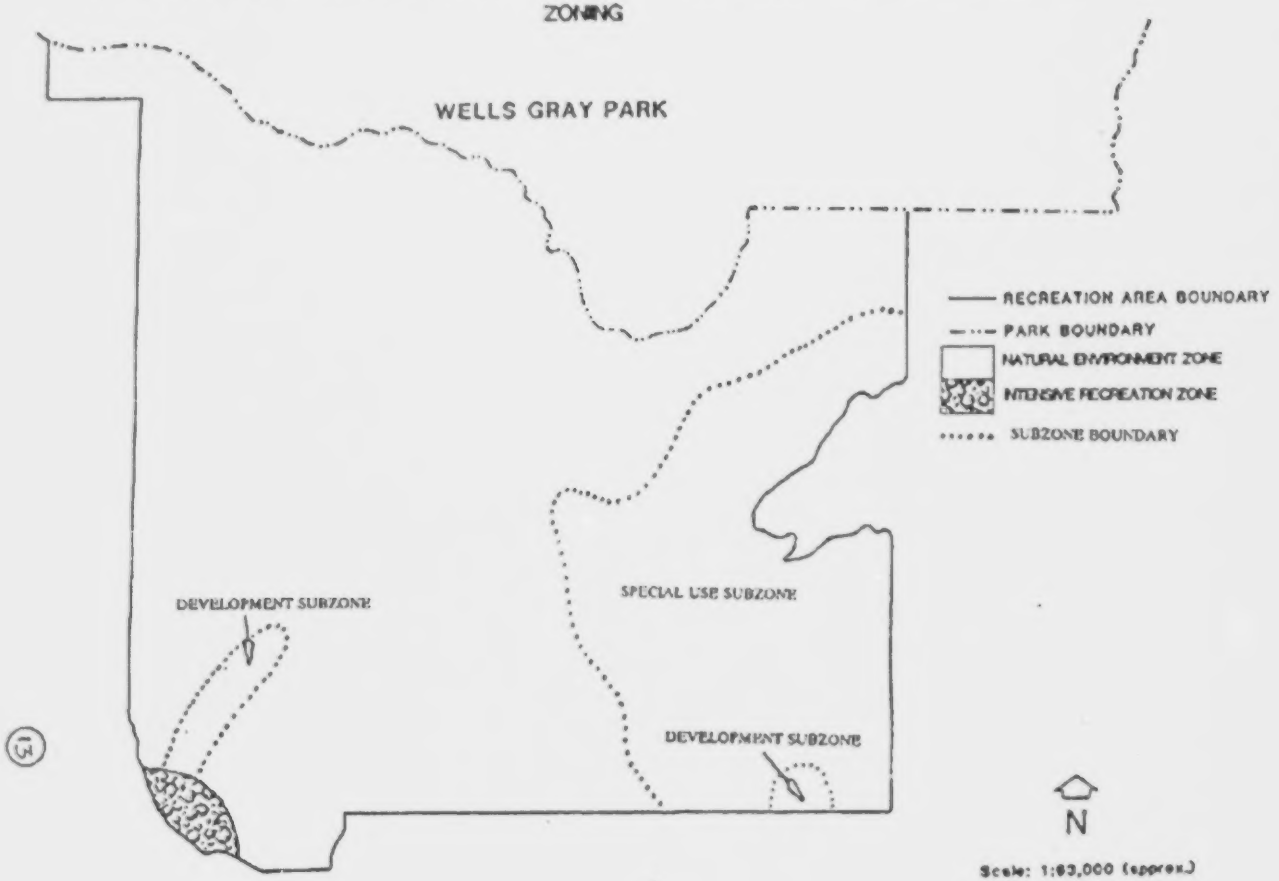


FIG. 14

- Wildfire suppression policies will be consistent with those of Wells Gray Park and will consider the visual sensitivity of the Trophy Mountain landscape.

- Appropriate management methods will be investigated to deter forest encroachment on the Trophy Meadows. Fire may be considered as a management tool in order to meet this objective.

iv. Wildlife

Objective:

To protect critical wildlife habitat and to manage wildlife species within the Recreation Area (Trophy) in numbers consistent with natural population cycles.

Management Actions:

- Recreation development in the Natural Environment Zone will not jeopardize the existing quality of sensitive caribou and bear habitat.

- Vegetation management policy will recognize the importance of old growth forest as a critical component of winter caribou range.

- Although not a formal land tenure, a Caribou management area identified by the Fish and Wildlife Branch is recognized and Recreation Area management will reflect the sensitivity of winter caribou habitat.

- Wildlife research projects may be conducted in the Recreation Area (Trophy) provided that such research poses no significant threat to the wildlife population, nor unduly constrain recreational use of the area.

- Trapping is a commercial wildlife resource activity and will be phased out according to Ministry policy.

- Due to limited opportunities for recreational hunting south of Trophy Mountain, hunting will not be permitted.

- The area will be added to wildlife Management Unit 3-45 (closed to hunting).

v. Geological

Objectives:

To highlight geological information to park visitors. To complete mineral evaluation as soon as possible and then consider Class A Park status.

Management Actions:

- An inventory of significant geological features within the Trophies will be conducted for the purpose of interpreting the resource.

- Mineral exploration which conforms to the Mineral Tenure Act will be administered.

- Road access will be limited to minimum requirements under the Mineral Tenure Act.

- Potential mining will be subject to review under the Mine Development Review Process.

vi. Cultural Resources

Objective:

Where appropriate, to protect provincially significant cultural resources.

Management Actions:

- Although no provincially significant cultural sites have been identified, information relative to potential sites will be collected as part of on-going management and research in the Recreation Area (Trophy).

vii. Outdoor Recreation Features and Visual Resources

Objective:

To ensure the protect on of significant recreation and visual features for the use and enjoyment of the public.

Management Actions:

- Recreation Features and biophysical mapping will be used to assess potential impact of recreation/resource developments on important features in the Recreation Area (Trophy).

- The Trophy Mountain landscape is of significant visual importance. To minimize logging impact, B.C. Parks will continue to provide input to B.C. Forests on logging plans surrounding the Recreation Area (Trophy).

C. VISITOR SERVICES MANAGEMENT

i. Recreation Opportunities

Objective:

To present and maintain an easily accessed, summer alpine area which offers a range of day-use and overnight outdoor recreation opportunities in a natural setting, as well as backcountry winter recreation opportunities.

Management Actions:

- To facilitate recreational use of the Trophies, the forest road which provides access to the main parking lot will be maintained for summer access. An operating agreement between Parks, Forests and/or Highways should be negotiated for certain maintenance items. In the long term, this access should be improved and designated as public road.

- Recreation opportunities presented in the Recreation Area (Trophy) will include:
  - . day-use hiking and skiing
  - . overnight camping
  - . guided hiking and skiing
  - . guided horseback riding
  - . commercial overnight accommodation
  - . special-use snowmobiling

- Only day-use public facilities will be developed within the southwest portion of the Recreation Area (Trophy).

1. Intensive Recreation Zone:

   - Adequate parking, an information shelter and toilets will be located here.

2. Natural Environment Zone:

   - A Type-2 trail will provide hiking and skiing access into the Recreation Area (Trophy), terminating at the cabin site within Trophy meadows. The existing route through the forest requires slight re-routing to facilitate use for nordic skiing.

   - Trail terminus will be developed as an Interpretive Area, offering information and pit toilets. Protected ruins of the shepherd's cabin and a day-use shelter will be located here to provide for summer picnicking and winter warming.

39

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA - TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

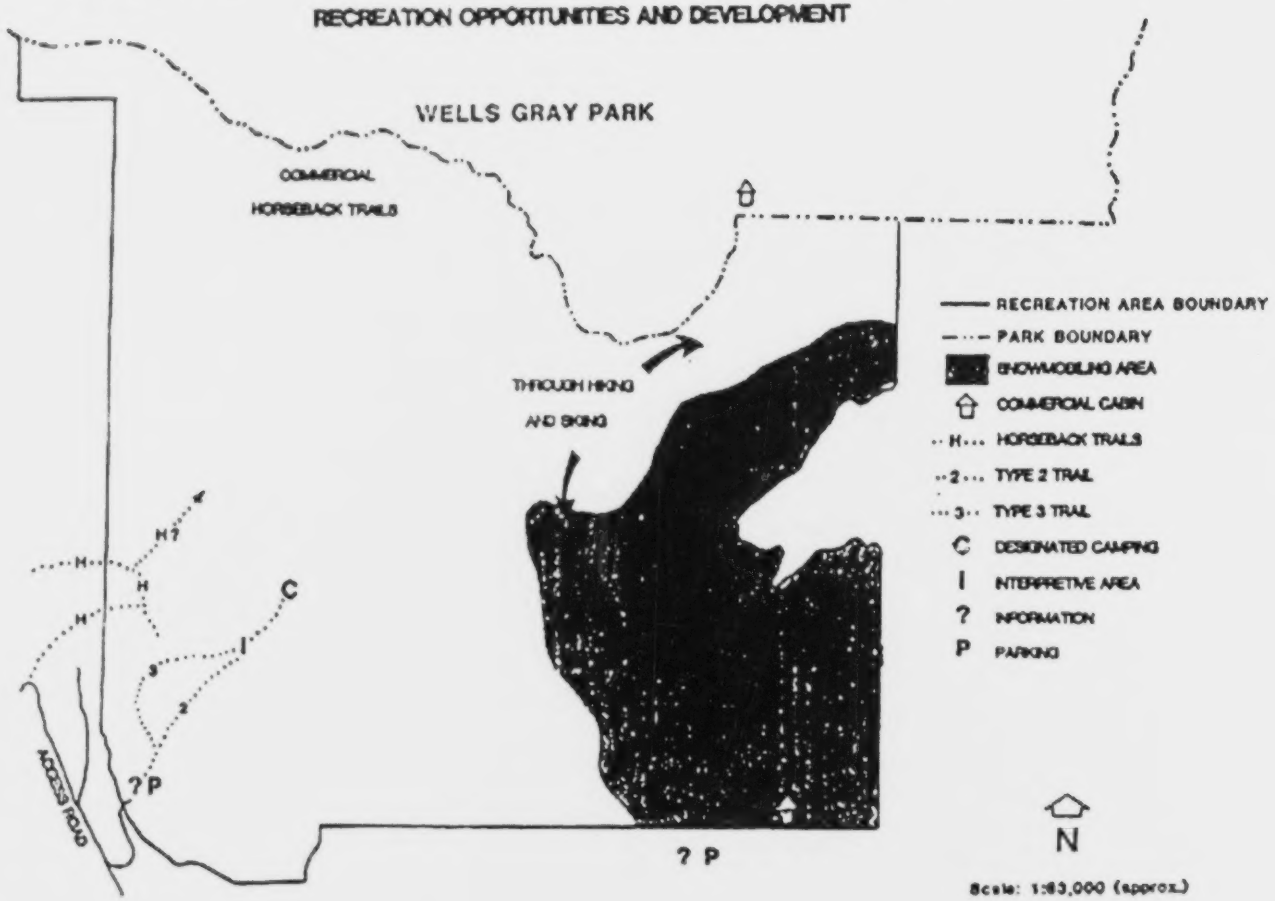


FIG. 15

- From the Interpretive Area, a Type-3 trail will provide access to the Sheila Lake basin from which dispersed hiking may commence to other points within the Recreation Area (Trophy).

- A Type-3 trail will be constructed to provide a return circle route from the Interpretive Area to the main parking lot.

- When user pressure dictates, as indicated by unacceptable environmental disturbance, designated campsites will be established in the Sheila Lake basin.

- Silver Tip Falls trail, although located within the Recreation Area (Trophy), is a component of an adjacent Forest Service recreation site and will be managed by B.C. Forests.

- Type-3 trail access to the south-east portion of the Recreation Area (Trophy) will be provided via a trail head and small parking area along the Spahats Creek Forest road. The trail will provide access only to the alpine, from where visitors may continue on routes of their choice enabling visitors to continue.

- A route through the Trophies and into Wells Gray Park will be managed as a public hiking and skiing opportunity.

- Provision of guided hiking or skiing opportunities within the Recreation Area (Trophy) will be by permit.

- As shown in Figure 15, no development of commercial accommodation will be permitted within the southwest portion of the Recreation Area.

- Horse use is compatible with management objectives where no environmental or social impacts are significant. The development of a trail into the southwest via Third Canyon Creek will enable horses to approach the sub-alpine area without impacting hikers. Further evaluation is required to route horses from Third Canyon through to Moul Creek.

- Horse use is acceptable as an extension to an existing Wells Gray Park guided commercial operation within the Moul Creek drainage. The development of trails and an overnight camp will be considered within guidelines established in the zoning plan.

- Commercially-supplied outdoor skills training (survival, skiing, rescue, etc.) is compatible with management objectives and may be considered by the District Manager.

- Bicycles will not be allowed in the Recreation Area (Trophy).

- Recreational helicopter access to the Trophies will not be permitted.

- Snowmobile use will be allowed only within the southeast portion of the Recreation Area (Trophy). Routing relative to known caribou habitat, and the establishment of safe territory, requires further identification.

- Hunting is incompatible with other recreational uses that the area attracts; hunting will be considered within the Moul Creek drainage following reclassification of Wells Gray Park Nature Conservancy.

ii. Management Services

1. Operations Base

Objective:

To provide a B.C. Parks presence in the Recreation Area (Trophy) and manage the site to achieve approved objectives.

Management Actions:

- The Recreation Area (Trophy) will be managed from the Wells Gray Zone office of the Thompson River District.

- Regular patrols of the Recreation Area (Trophy) during summer and winter seasons will serve and regulate visitors and operators in the Trophies, as well as provide sound knowledge and advice for management purposes.

2. Promotions and Information Program

Objective:

To promote the Recreation Area (Trophy) as an easily accessible hiking destination supplementing recreation opportunities available within Wells Gray Park, and, to provide information to potential visitors which stresses the site's characteristic natural and recreational features.

Management Actions:

Off-site.
. co-operate with local interest groups and organizations, which help to promote the Recreation Area (Trophy)
. distribute information via brochure publications
. encourage organized group use of the Area (eg. Naturalist clubs, hiking clubs, youth clubs, ski clubs)
. encourage magazine/newspaper articles which will attract visitors to the Wells Gray Park vicinity

. the Recreation Area (Trophy) will be included in marketing and information packages for Wells Gray Provincial Park
. the Trophy Meadows are a unique botanical attraction and guided visits will be encouraged through the promotion of visitor programs and printed information

En route.
. access to the Recreation Area will be conveniently signed
. the Trophies will be promoted at the Clearwater Visitor Centre

On-site.
. local Naturalist clubs will be encouraged to assist in the implementation of information and interpretive programs
. signing will direct visitors within the Recreation Area
. promotion of special events will encourage visitation and awareness in the Trophies

VI McANDREW LAKE SITE

A. ZONING

i. Wilderness Recreation Zone

Objective:

To provide opportunities for backcountry, all-season, recreational activities in a natural setting.

Includes: McAndrew Lake area basin.

Use:

. primarily winter activities
. Lodge/Accommodation facilities could serve as a base for extended trips into the northern area of the park; a building site would be appropriately sub-zoned for development once identified.

B. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

i. Land and Land Tenure

Objective:

To manage the land in keeping with objectives established for Wells Gray Park.

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – McANDREW LAKE SITE

ZONING

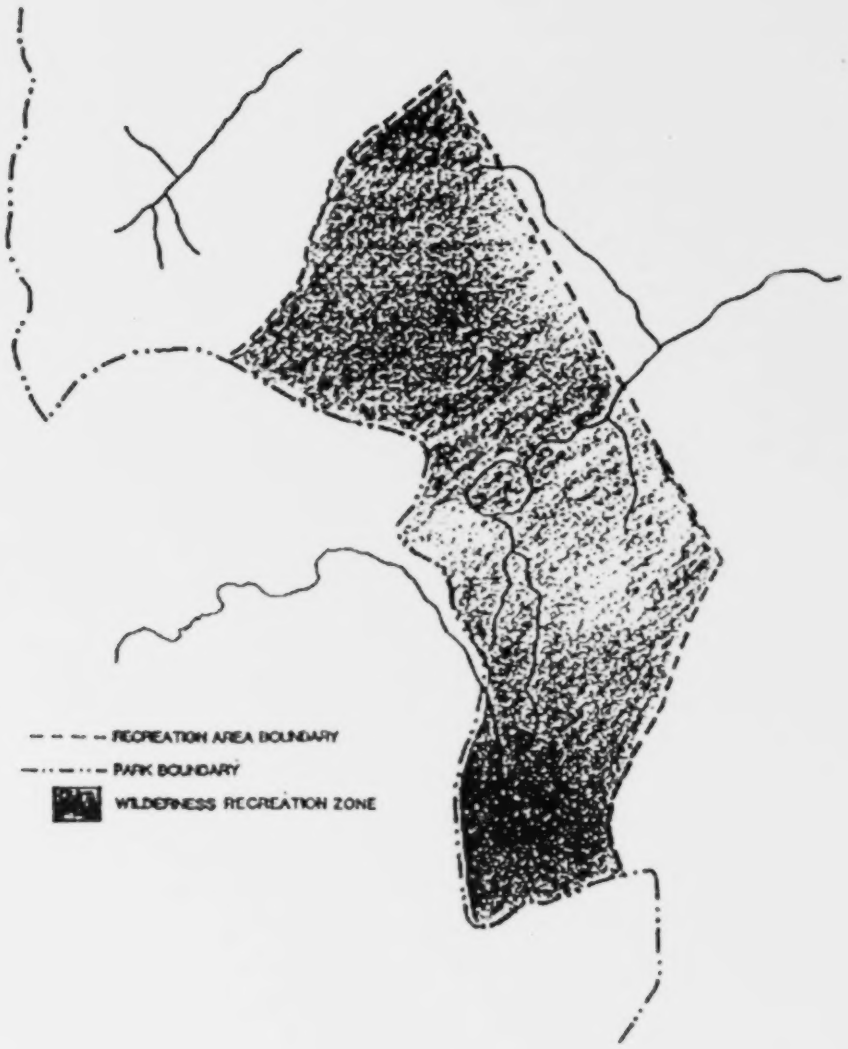


FIG. 16

43

Management Actions:

- Administer mineral resource tenures according to the Mineral Tenure Act.
- Manage lands according to their potential as Class "A" parkland.

ii. Water

Objective:

To protect the natural quality of water resources at McAndrew Lake.

Management Actions:

- Monitor and ensure high water quality is maintained at McAndrew Lake.

- Apply appropriate sanitation measures to achieve objectives.

iii. Vegetation

Objective:

To preserve and maintain the existing forest cover in its natural state.

Management Actions:

- As in adjacent parkland.

iv. Fish

Objective:

To assess and protect natural aquatic values in McAndrew Lake.

Management Actions:

- Undertake studies to assess physical habitat of the lake and desirability and/or feasibility of a recreational fishery.

v. Wildlife

Objective:

To protect and maintain wildlife populations and habitat.

Management:

- As in adjacent parklands.

C. VISITOR SERVICES MANAGEMENT

i. Recreation Opportunities

Objective:

To recognize backcountry use as related to Wells Gray Park and to promote the McAndrew Lake unit for destination recreation use.

Management Actions:

- Promote maintenance of road access to the upper Thompson River.

- Consider commercial destination opportunities, particularly winter operations:
  - accommodation
  - guiding services
  - access services (air and ground)

- Assess summer recreation opportunities for hiking (including helicopter accessed hiking) and backpacking into Wells Gray Park.

- Management for recreational hunting as in adjacent parklands.

ii. Management Services

1. Operations Base:

Objective:

Provide management services from Wells Gray Park.

Management Actions:

- Ensure the Recreation Area (McAndrew Lake) is patrolled as regularly as adjacent areas of Wells Gray Park.

2. Promotions and Information Programme

Objective:

To encourage backcountry summer and winter use of the McAndrew Lake area.

WELLS GRAY RECREATION AREA – McANDREW LAKE SITE

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

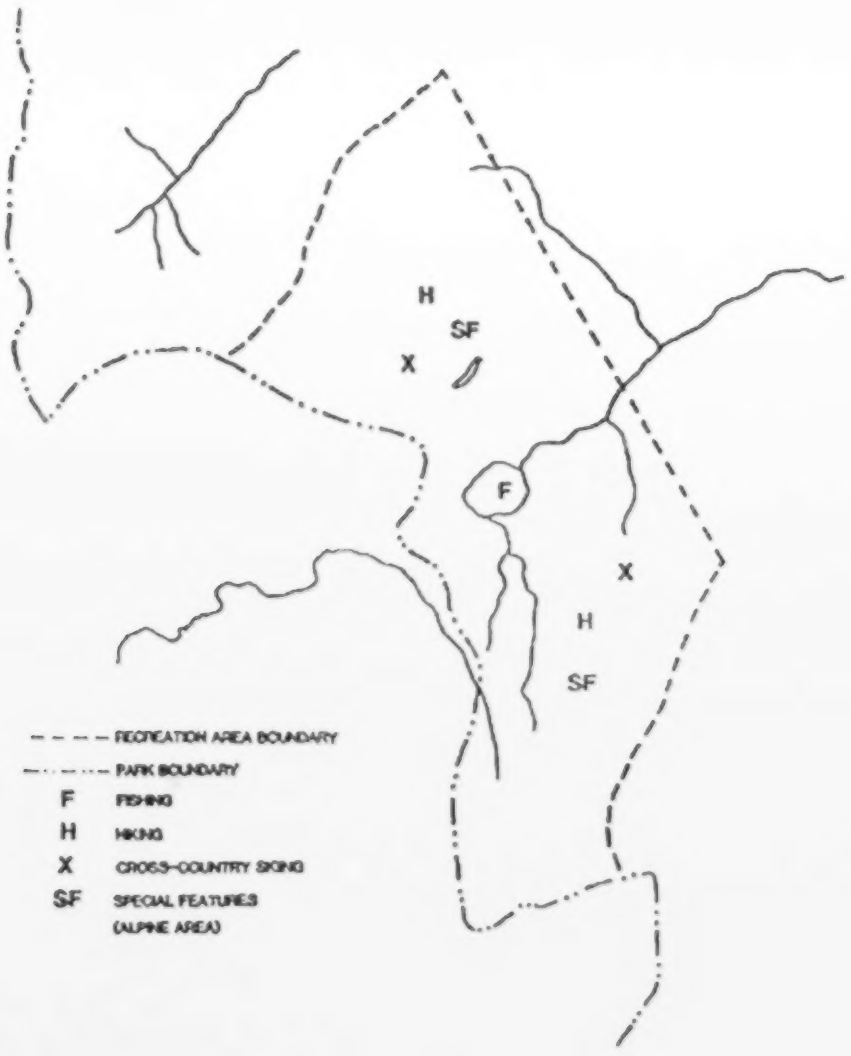


FIG. 17

46

Management Actions:

- Continue to promote area through current marketing actions, and publications.

VII. INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

CLEARWATER RIVER SITE

- Complete Clearwater Recreation Corridor Plan to address access, visual resource and recreation activity management.

- Commence maintenance/security services.

- Manage commercial river rafting activity.

- Re-construct and up-grade recreational facilities.

- Participate in fisheries management strategies of Federal and Provincial agencies.

- Commence parkland re-classification process (as per Mineral Tenure Act/Park Act).

FLOURMILLS SITE

- Initiate management presence.

- Conduct intensive recreation inventory to fine-tune zoning and development plans.

- Promote unique features of area to the South Cariboo market.

- Assess the feasibility of re-opening road access from Wells Gray Park.

- Develop facilities.

- Provide interpretation of volcanic features.

- Convert to Class A.

TROPHY MOUNTAIN SITE

- Promote public awareness through signing and revised Wells Gray Park publications.

- Initiate snowmobile closure in the southwest; evaluate appropriate snowmobiling territory in the southeast.

- Maintain road for year-round access as feasible.

- Initiate regular patrol of the Recreation Area (Trophy).

- Evaluate and construct horse trail from Third Canyon Creek.

- Construct information and toilet facilities at the parking lot.

- Sign/maintain secondary access to the southeast quadrant via Spahats Creek.

- Establish a commercially guided hiking/ski touring opportunity which provides for overnight accommodation.

- Extend a commercially guided horse riding permit in Moul Creek.

- Include area within Wildlife Management Unit 4-45.

- Commence period for mineral explorations.

- Re-route access trail to facilitate skiing.

- Initiate a hunting closure within the Recreation Area.

- Construct a Type-3 trail returning to the parking area from the Interpretive Area.

- Construct a Type-3 trail from the Interpretive Area to the Sheila Lake basin.

- Designate and develop camping sites in the Sheila Lake basin.

- Compile an inventory of the biological and geological features in the area.

- Negotiate a long-term maintenance agreement with B.C. Highways for the Recreation Area access road.

- Move the parking lot and related facilities into the Recreation Area.

- Construct the Interpretive Area shelter and toilet facility.

- Conduct an inventory of the cultural features in the area.

- Continue to plan and manage the Recreation Area as part of Wells Gray Park.

- Reclassify the Recreation Area to Class "A" Wells Gray Park.

McANDREW LAKE SITE

- Manage area as an integral part of Wells Gray Park.
- Promote recreational use.
- Re-classify to Class "A" status.